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A

LETTER

TO

LORD *EG---NT*,

ON THE

Dangerous Ambition, and over-grown Power of a certain M--if--r.

Contra publicos Hoſtes & Magiſtatis reos, omnis Homo Miles eſt. TERTULL.

Printed at *LONDON:*
And Sold at all the Pamphlet Shops in *Great Britain.*

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A LETTER, TO LORD *E G--- N T.*

My Lord,

OUR Sentiments upon the State of this Nation, with regard both to her foreign and domeſtick Intereſt, have ever been the ſame; we have with

equal Pity and Concern long beheld her ſtruggling under the diſgraceful Tyranny of a M--n--r whoſe direct Attempts to corrupt and to enſlave, whoſe open Violation of the Laws of God and Man have left us no means to eſcape, no expedient to divert the formidable Storm which comes on ſo faſt, and muſt ſpeedily overwhelm us.

If we judge from Reaſon or Experience, from the Events of former Times, from the Hiſtory of other Nations, as well as our own, we ſhall find, that the general Corruption of the People, as it promotes

private

private Power and Oppreſſion muſt weaken publick Intereſt and Liberty; it is with a ſecret Pain that I reflect upon the ancient States of *Greece* and *Rome*. It is with Horror that I read of their Depravity, of the Cauſes which produced it, and the fatal Conſequences attending it, when I ſee we are haſtening to meet their Fate, we ſhall ſoon be a People without Virtue, a Nation without Liberty, the Jeſt of our Neighbours, and the Contempt of the World.

Your Lordſhip has read of great

and powerful States being enſlaved, and of mighty Kingdoms being ſubverted by a ſingle Hand; but it was the Hand of a *Cæſar*, or a *Cromwell*; able and experienced Politicians, Men of great Parts and ſteady Reſolution, but that this Nation ſhould be totally ruin'd by a ſingle Wretch, who has as little Senſe and Ability as he has Honour and Virtue; that he ſhould be ſuffered to triumph too in the National Ruin, by all the Methods the moſt wanton Profuſion can invent, this my Lord will be a moſt remarkable Period in Hiſtory, and I fear an eternal Diſgrace to our Annals.

Your

Your Lordſhip has already expoſed this Monſter to the View of the World: You have laid open the weak and impious Conduct in our foreign Affairs which has ſo eminently diſtinguiſh'd him as the Miniſter, the Patriot and the Hero: I confeſs, my Lord, as a free and generous *Briton*, you had a juſt Provocation to do it; but what will you ſay? nay, will you not break thro' that Candour and Moderation which on all other Occaſions are ſo natural to you? When you ſee him undertaking the Government of an Univerſity, that he may ſow there

the Seeds of Corruption, that he may taint the tender Minds of Youth with obſequious Principles of Compliance and Reſignation; that Univerſity which has bred ſo many wiſe and brave Men, is it not become under the Direction and Management of this ſingle Hand, the publick Mart of Slaves and Sycophants?

Have we not ſeen of late ſuch Inſtances of their Baſeneſs, ſuch blind Deference to Men in Power ‡ as were never known ſince there were Societies of Men in the World. Here my Lord an immoderate Luſt for Power, hath drove the Miniſter even beyond himſelf. What

What elſe could have induced him to accept the Poſt? can it be ſaid that he had even a Thought of promoting the Cauſe of Learning and Religion; who had ſo notoriouſly diſcouraged the one, and had taught half the Nation to deſpiſe the other.

I hope my Lord, if you ſhould give the Publick a Series of his Grace's domeſtick Conduct, you will not forget the Circumſtance I have been mentioning, as I think it well deſerves your Notice and Correction: To corrupt our Youth even in the very Seminaries of Education, to nip each generous and growing

Principle

Principle in the Bud, to tear up thoſe Seeds which might one Day render them the Support and Honour of their Country; this my Lord is a Scheme unpractic'd, unattempted in former Ages; a Scheme which bodes ſome horrible Miſchief to the Common Wealth.

I know his Gr--ce is of *Caligula*'s Temper, and would if poſſible have the whole Frame of Nature periſh with him; but that this Nation muſt at laſt fall with him to Wreck and Deſtruction, we have too much reaſon to ſuſpect; for if he continnes much longer in the ſame Seat of Adm---r---on

Adm----r---on there will not be one godly Man left to ſave it: I am upon a Topic I can't eaſily quit, or take my Leave of your Lordſhip till I have given you ſome Idea of that Univerſity, over which his Gr--ce has the Honour to preſide.

You are ſenſible that no Society can be endowed with a more juſt and valuable Right than the free Election of its own Members; now my Lord, there are very few in this Univerſity but what are daily ſacrificing this Right, either to the deſpotick Will of their D--ke, or to

ſome of his paultry Pimps of Tyranny. I ſhall mention a late Inſtance of their Servility, which exceeds any Thing I have met with thro' the long Courſe of Experience I have had in the World: It was repreſented to a certain * Society, upon the Death of Dr. *Caſtle*, that it would be agreeable to the Pride of a Great Man in the Church, to be complemented with the abſolute Nomination of a new Maſter to ſucceed him; upon which, without the

* *Bennet* Coll. *alias* Corpus Chriſti Coll. *alias* Coll. *Lambethinium*.

It is ſaid that a Hiſtory of this College is now in the Preſs: I have not the Pleaſure of knowing the Author, or I ſhould beg of him not to omit a Tranſaction ſo likely to engage the Admiration of our Poſterity.

the leaſt Scruple of proſtituting the Honour of the College, or of violating the moſt ſolemn Oaths, they ſent an humble Petition to his Grace, repreſenting to him the difficult Circumſtances they lay under, and that in ſo weighty a Point they were neither capable of acting or judging for themſelves; but beg'd that his Grace, out of his great Charity and Benevolence would appoint ſomebody to rule over them: It reminds me of that Piece of Hiſtory which *Strabo* gives us of the *Cappadocians*, who refus'd the Liberty that was offer'd them by the *Romans*, of

governing themſelves by their own Laws and Conſtitutions. And ſuch was their Diſpoſition towards Slavery, and ſo divine a Thing they thought the Right of Maſterſhip, that they dared not even be ſo free as to give themſelves that Bleſſing, which they choſe rather their Conquerors ſhould beſtow upon them; they dared not make a King, but would rather take one from their powerful Neighbours: Had this People, ſays Lord *Shaftsbury*, been neceſſitated to come to an Election, the Horror of ſuch a Uſe of Liberty in Government, would perhaps have

deter-

determin'd them to chuſe blindfold, or leave it to the Deciſion of the commoneſt Lot caſt of Dye, or whatever it were which might beſt enable them to clear themſelves of the heinious Charge of uſing the leaſt Foreſight Choice, or Prudence in ſuch an Affair.

I am ſure your Lordſhip muſt think, the People I was juſt now ſpeaking of, are ſtrongly poſſeſs'd with this *Cappadocian* Spirit: I am unwilling to lead your Lordſhip on any farther, or to open a Scene to you which will be too

ſhock-

hocking to behold. It muſt give a real Concern to any Man who has a publick Feeling, eſpecially one who carries in his Breaſt a Heart like yours, to find the Deſign of ſuch noble Inſtitutions perverted to ſuch mean and wicked Purpoſes; to find in ſo large a Body of Men ſo few, who for Preferment would ſcorn to renounce their Integrity, or to barter publick Faith for private Intereſt, to hear the Principles of paſſive Obedience and Non-Reſiſtance publickly taught in their Schools, the Cauſe of Corruption loudly pleaded in their Senate; to ſee that very

Magiſ-

Magiſtrate * who is raiſed to ſupport, and ſworn to protect the Univerſity, ſhamefully regardleſs of its Intereſts, with uncommon Inſolence trampling upon its Laws, and making the Overthrow of its Rights and Privileges the baſe Foundation of his own Greatneſs: Yet all this may be daily heard and ſeen.

I ſhall conclude my Lord with a natural, tho' melancholy Reflection, That if this Place is to be the Seminary of future Stateſmen and Miniſters,

* This Magiſtrate is the Miniſter's Vicegerent in the Univerſity, whoſe conſummate Impudence cannot deny but that he has within this Twelve-month been the wicked Promoter of more Jealouſies, Feuds and Animoſities than have been heard of before, ſince her Foundation.

Miniſters, the Nurſe of Science, the School of thoſe who are to be the Guardians of their Country's Honour, the Defenders of its Religion and Liberties, we can have but little Proſpect of retrieving the Intereſt, and of ſecuring the Happineſs of *Britain*.

I am, my Lord,

Yours, &c.